

***Periclimenaeus nielbrucei* sp. nov. (Crustacea: Decapoda: Pontoniinae), a new sponge associate from the Capricorn Islands, Queensland, with notes on related *Periclimenaeus* species**

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Abstract

Periclimenaeus nielbrucei sp. nov., a coral reef sponge associate, is described from specimens from the Capricorn Islands, Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia. The rostral dentition is unique in *Periclimenaeus*, with the dorsal carinal teeth diverging irregularly from the midline. The Australian *Periclimenaeus* fauna is now increased to 24 species.

Key words: *Periclimenaeus nielbrucei* sp. nov., Crustacea, Caridea, Pontoniinae, Australia, Queensland, sponge associate

Introduction

The presence of the pontoniine shrimp genus *Periclimenaeus* Borradaile, 1915, in Australian waters was established by E.J. Miers (1884) when he described *Coralliocaris ? tridentatus* (now *Periclimenaeus tridentatus*), from Thursday Island, Torres Strait, Queensland, in his report on the crustaceans collected, by Dr R.W. Coppinger, Staff-Surgeon during the Indo-Pacific Surveying Voyage of H.M.S. *Alert*, 1881-2. A second species, *Coralliocaris hecate* Nobili, 1904 (now *Periclimenaeus hecate*) was reported from Cape Jaubert, Western Australia by Heinrich Balss (1921), reporting on the material of Dr E Mjöberg's Swedish Scientific Expedition to Australia (1910–1913). *Periclimenaeus* currently contains 45 species in the Indo-West Pacific region and is the second largest genus in the Pontoniinae. At least 22 species are reported to occur in Australian waters and 13 species have been previously recorded from Queensland, particularly from the coral reefs of the Great Barrier Reef.

The species of *Periclimenaeus* are associates of sponges and ascidians, although the